



St Dwynwen

St. Dwynwen is a central figure in **Welsh history**, known as the **patron saint of lovers**. She lived in the **5th century** and was one of 24 daughters of **King Brychan Brycheiniog**, a ruler in **Wales**. Dwynwen was described as **beautiful** and **virtuous**. She fell deeply in love with a young man named **Maelon Dafodrill**. However, their **love** was forbidden, either because her **father** had arranged for her to marry someone else or because she had decided to dedicate herself to **God**. Heartbroken, Dwynwen fled to the **forest** and prayed for her **sadness** to be taken away.

According to legend, an **angel** visited Dwynwen and gave her a **potion**. The potion caused her to forget **Maelon**, who was turned into a block of **ice**. God then granted Dwynwen three **wishes**. Her first wish was for **Maelon** to be thawed and restored to life. Her second wish was for God to protect **true lovers** and help them overcome their problems. Her third wish was to never marry and to devote her life to helping others.

Dwynwen lived the rest of her life as a **nun**. She founded a **church** on **Llanddwyn Island**, off the coast of **Anglesey**, which became a site of **pilgrimage** for lovers seeking blessings. The island also has a **well** dedicated to **St. Dwynwen**. It is said that the movements of the **fish** in the well can predict whether a **relationship** will succeed.

St. Dwynwen's Day is celebrated on **January 25th** and is a uniquely **Welsh tradition**. It is similar to **Valentine's Day**, but it focuses on both **romantic love** and **friendship**. People in **Wales** exchange **gifts**, write **cards**, and spend time with loved ones to mark the occasion.



Comprehension Questions:

1. Who was Dwynwen's father, and what was her family background?
2. What was the significance of the potion given to Dwynwen?
3. What were Dwynwen's three wishes, and why were they important?
4. Why did Llanddwyn Island become a place of pilgrimage?
5. How is St. Dwynwen's Day celebrated in Wales, and how does it compare to Valentine's Day?